



The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

Is the principal means for the President to coordinate Federal research and development. An important objective of the NSTC is the establishment of clear national goals for Federal science and technology investments in areas ranging from information technologies and health research to the improvement of transportation systems and the strengthening of fundamental research.

The Subcommittee on CIC R&D

Is one of seven technology R&D Subcommittees under the Committee on Technology, consisting of representatives from each of the 12 agencies that participate in the Federal CIC R&D programs (see organization chart). The Subcommittee works with the agencies to plan, budget, implement, and review the multiagency CIC R&D programs, helping to shape the Nation's 21st century information infrastructure.

The FISAC

Was created to (1) stimulate and foster the migration of technologies from the information technologies R&D community to Government application missions and information services communities, and (2) identify challenges from applications to the information technologies R&D community.

Information Technology for **CRISES** Management (ITCM)



Mission of ITCM

Promote collaborations that identify, develop, test, and implement computing, information, and communication technologies that improve our Nation's preparation for, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from crises.

About the Information Technology for Crises Management Team

Crises Management Demands Our Attention

"Crises can make enormous demands on the widely distributed information resources of a nation.

"Responding to the Oklahoma City bombing disaster required a national call for search and rescue experts and their tools to help find survivors and to reinforce unstable areas of the damaged Alfred P. Murrah Building so that rescuers could enter safely, as well as massive coordination to focus a diverse set of teams on a common goal.

"Hurricane Andrew and the Northridge, California, earthquake caused widespread devastation and placed pressure on relief authorities to distribute food, water, shelter, and medicine and to begin receiving and approving applications for disaster assistance without delay.

"Preparing for and responding to crises place demands on information technology that cannot be satisfied readily with existing tools, products, and services. These unmet demands point to many promising research directions. . . . They encompass most aspects of computing and communications technology, including networks and the architectures and conventions that organize and manage them; the services and standards that unite a network of communications devices, sensors, computers, and databases into a useful information infrastructure; and the applications that rely on that infrastructure. . . ."

Excerpt from
Computing and Communication in the Extreme,
National Academy Press, 1996

In February 1997, the Federal Information Services and Applications Council (FISAC) created an interagency applications team to address crises management. This group, now referred to as the Information Technology for Crises Management (ITCM) Team, collaborates with Federal, state, local, and international governmental organizations and other sectors of the economy to promote collaborations that identify, develop, test, and implement computing, information, and communications technologies for crises management applications. The Team consists of representatives from Government agencies, including:

- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Coordination Office for Computing, Information and Communications (NCO/CIC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- United States Census Bureau
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)

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<http://www.ccic.gov/fisac/itcm>

Goals of ITCM

Based on user requirements:

- Define computing, information, and communications (CIC) research needs in emergency preparedness and response, mitigation, and recovery
- Guide the development of CIC applications and tools useful in meeting crises management demands
- Coordinate the demonstration of new CIC crises management applications and tools
- Foster the dissemination of ITCM applications and tools

Methodology

- Document crises management needs using input from the participating agencies
- Identify and categorize CIC technologies useful to crises management
- Compare crisis management needs to existing and developing CIC technologies
- Advocate Federal agency research and development (R&D) to address unmet needs
- Foster crises management (R&D) collaborations among Government, industry, and academia
- Engender cooperation among crises managers and CIC technologists to enhance crises response readiness

Crises Management Methodology

